

financial goals as well retirement plans. What about spiritual goals? What do you want your relationship with God to look like? How is your life impacted by Jesus Christ? Write your thoughts here as you contemplate your future spiritual life.

### **Thursday, October 19**

Read Luke 16:19-31. This well-known parable from Jesus has many dimensions and offers us insight on both our priorities and when those priorities go wrong. Lazarus most likely did not choose homelessness and hunger as a lifestyle and his situation represents when life goes wrong. When he dies, he finds comfort in the heavenly realm – resting in the presence of Abraham, the Father of Israel. The rich man who descends into hades when he dies has lived a life oblivious to the needs of others.

While this parable illustrates that life is not always smooth for those who are God's people, it does give us pause to contemplate on what we focus. Yesterday, we spoke of goals. Today, meditate on what you need to focus each day to achieve those goals. Do you have step-by-step plans to achieve your goals? Do you have contingency plans if things go wrong? Write your thoughts here and pray for the confidence to live your life in light of God's love, forgiveness and guidance!

### **Friday, October 20**

Today is a "Put it All Together Day." Read whatever scripture will help you center on God's direction for your life. So what are your plans – in terms of life, work, and family and spiritually? How are you called to offer your life as a living sacrifice for God's greatest purposes? (Romans 12:1) Sit in silence, meditate upon God's will for your life, write your thoughts here and praise God for the blessings which flow to you.

## **Notes from the Message – October 15, 2023**

### ***Keeping Your Eye on the Goal!\****

- I. In the middle of the chaos of land being seized by the Babylonian army and thousands of Jews being exiled to the north, Jeremiah bought some \_\_\_\_\_ not far from Jerusalem in the land of Anathoth.
  - A. Jeremiah warned that the \_\_\_\_\_ would be destroyed and the people take into exile by the king of Babylon. Jeremiah was a \_\_\_\_\_ teller.
  - B. King Zedekiah questioned Jeremiah's investment \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. In buying land in Anathoth, Jeremiah was not throwing good money after bad, but demonstrating his confidence in God's promise of \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. In other words, Jeremiah's investment proclaimed the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord and served God's purposes.
    3. Jeremiah was a confident steward of the divine \_\_\_\_\_, and he made it known to those around him.
- II. There is a question that we must all answer: Where and how does God call us to \_\_\_\_\_?
  - A. God calls the \_\_\_\_\_ and individuals to investment strategies that are as prophetic Jeremiah's purchase of the field at Anathoth.
  - B. We demonstrate conviction that "God has a \_\_\_\_\_ here" when we support the ministries and missions of Central United Methodist Church.
    1. We stand for the future of the church when we minister to our \_\_\_\_\_ and youth today.
    2. We stand for the conviction that God is at work when we support the \_\_\_\_\_ work of the church.

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\*Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

3. We stand for the conviction that God will guide us in our ministry in this place at this time when we support our internal \_\_\_\_\_ projects.

- III. When we support the ministry of the church we are making a down payment on the \_\_\_\_\_, just as Jeremiah does when he bought that field in Anathoth.
- A. Trusting in God's timing allows us to also trust that God will turn \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Finally, we need to remember that the Lord is always working to turn \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_, and death into new life.
  - C. Why do we invest ourselves? Because God is \_\_\_\_\_, and true security is found in his \_\_\_\_\_.

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, October 16**

Read Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15. Prophecy is often misunderstood. Many believe that prophecy involved the telling of future events, far off into the future as a mystical explanation. While prophecy often involves the predicting of events far into the future, prophecy is truly a cause and effect endeavor. Many Biblical prophecies involved the warning of future devastations in the face of current mistakes. King Zedekiah did not listen to counsel about following God's ways and therefore receiving blessings. The integrity and inner strength of the nation was compromised.

There are many elements of life today that we know to be true when it comes to current behavior producing future results. If you smoke, you increase your chances of contracting lung cancer. If a woman drinks alcohol in excessive amounts while pregnant, the child's health can be damaged. Jeremiah is saying to King

Zedekiah that you cannot ignore God's guidance and expect God's blessings. What do you think about prophecy? What would you expect as future blessings from following God's guidance today? Write your thoughts here and pray for clarity of God's guidance upon your life.

### **Tuesday, October 17**

Read Jeremiah 1:1-10. This passage of scripture is the beginning of Jeremiah's prophetic career – when he was very young. It is his call story, when God placed an expectation upon Jeremiah to be a teller of truth – a prophet. Clergy often speak of God's call upon their lives; it can be as simple as a trusted friend suggesting that a person look at this life commitment to a very spiritual experience of inner urgings from God. In the passage you just read, Jeremiah is having a conversation with God.

How about you? How do you perceive God communicating with you? How does your understanding of what God wants for your life affect your daily living? What is it that you believe God wants you to do? Meditate upon these questions, write your thoughts here and ask that God provide a calling upon your life.

### **Wednesday, October 18**

Read Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and Luke 16:19-31. Today you are being asked to think about goals. Jeremiah stood firm in the belief that God would redeem God's people and there would come a day when the people of Israel will buy and sell land once again. It will be a time when God proclaims, "They shall be my people, and I will be their God." (Jeremiah 32:38) We can view this prophecy as a goal and a return to life as God intends.

What are your goals? If you are a list maker, you most likely make goals for yourself every day. Hopefully you have goals for your work, your family and other relationships. You have